



Jan Richardson, "Forgiving"



**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF WILMETTE**

**Sunday, September 17th, 2023**

**Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

*Experience God. Grow Disciples. Transform Lives.*

Welcome to worship at First Presbyterian Church of Wilmette! We're so glad you're here. Whether you're a long-time member or first-time visitor, we are blessed to have you with us. We hope joining us for worship today will nurture your heart and transform your mind. You are loved and never alone!

Our mission statement here is **“Experience God. Grow Disciples. Transform Lives.”** As a church, we strive to be about that simple and challenging work day after day, in season and out of season. No matter what's happening in our lives or in the life of the world, we will continue to be agents of God's love in the world. We will keep growing as followers of Christ. We will keep loving and listening to our neighbors. We will continue praying for one another. We will keep the hand to plow, working to embody God's dream for the world. We will keep reminding ourselves that we are a work in progress.

I hope your heart will hear something personal and relevant this morning—a word of comfort, a spur to action, a call to a deeper relationship with God. After the service, please stick around. Introduce yourself to one of our pastors. We have lots of programs and community groups to feed your soul and expand your spirit. Try one out. You never know—you might just be home!

With gratitude in Christ,  
Pastors Jeff Lehn, Kara Smith-Laubenstein and Rev. Dr. Lolly Dominski

**WORSHIP LEADERS:**

\*PLEASE STAND

Rev. Jeff Lehn, Preaching  
Rev. Kara Smith-Laubenstein, Pastoral Liturgist  
Anne Menard, Liturgist  
Chancel Choir  
Wonee Kim, Accompanist  
Arianne Lehn and Bob Neuhaus, Clarinets  
David Neuhaus, Bassoon

**PRELUDE** - *Minuetto* from Divertimento in B-flat Major

W.A. Mozart

**ENTRANCE OF THE LIGHT**

The Acolyte brings in the light to remind us that we have gathered in the Light of Christ.

**WELCOME AND COMMON LIFE**

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

O God, in you we trust.

**To you, O Lord, we lift up our souls.**

Make us to know your ways, O Lord;

**Teach us your paths.**

Lead us in your truth and teach us,

**For you are the God of our salvation; for you we wait all day long.**

God leads the humble in what is right, and teaches them his way.

**All the paths of the Lord are steadfast love and faithfulness.**

**\*OPENING HYMN NO. 409, verses 1, 2, and 5 - *God Is Here!***

ABBOT'S LEIGH

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

Jesus calls us to enter the joy of discipleship, the joy of following in his way. But sin clings closely, and we struggle to respond fully to Christ's invitation. Let us seek God's forgiveness together, so that we may know more deeply the joy God intends for us, first in silent prayer.

**CHORAL PRAYER - *Song of Forgiveness***

Allen Pote

**O Lord have mercy on us, have mercy.**

**O Lord have mercy on us, we pray.**

**O Lord forgive us, forgive us all our sins as we walk in the light of your love.**

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Gracious God, you are always present and active in us and in all creation. We confess that sometimes we fail to recognize and respond to your work in the world. We defer to power and privilege, expect the tried and true, and succumb to doubt and despair when your ways are not clear. Behold, you are doing a new thing; help us to perceive it. Forgive us when we do not respond to your call. Liberate us from our fears and self-imposed limitations. Guide us into the fullness of life and love that you are at work preparing. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

**ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

Our God makes a way where there is no way, infusing our world with grace and hope when such goodness feels long gone. We are a people redeemed and restored. Be confident that in Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

**Thanks be to God! Amen.**

**\*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

The peace of Christ be with you.

**And also with you!**

**CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE - HYMN NO. 814 - *In God Alone***

Jacques Berthier

**In God alone my soul can find rest and peace, in God my peace and joy.**

**Only in God my soul can find its rest, find its rest and peace.** (sing repeatedly)

**CHILDREN'S CHAPEL**

Children are invited to share the peace and gather with leaders to go to the Chapel and continue to worship together in an age-appropriate and meaningful way. They will return to sit with their families toward the end of the worship service in the Sanctuary. The Nursery is available for babies and very young children.

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on us. Open us to your life-giving Word. Quiet the voices within us that do not align with your will. Focus our minds on the message you intend for us so we may faithfully discern your way. Amen.

**SCRIPTURE READING - Matthew 18:21-35 (New Testament page 20)**

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

SERMON - "Spiritual Practices: Forgiveness"

Rev. Jeff Lehn

HYMN OF RESPONSE - NO. 444 - *Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive*

DETROIT

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors;  
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

**CALL FOR OFFERING**



Give online here

*We invite you to give via our church website [www.fpcw.org](http://www.fpcw.org) (see QR code), our smartphone app, or by sending a check to the church office. An offering plate is also available on your right as you exit the sanctuary. We are grateful for your generosity!*

**OFFERTORY** - *Adagio* from Divertimento in B-flat Major

W.A. Mozart

**\*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE—The Doxology**

OLD HUNDREDTH

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God all creatures here below;  
Praise God above, ye heavenly host; Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost.**

**\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**God of extravagant mercy, with outstretched hands you have poured out wonder and delight, goodness and beauty. Take these offerings, we pray, as our protest against all that is evil and callous, greedy and oppressive, in our world and in ourselves—so that we, and others, will know our world to be blessed by your abundant love and grace. Amen.**

**MISSION TESTIMONY**

Amy Miller

**\*SENDING HYMN NO. 436** - *God of Compassion, in Mercy Befriend Us*

O QUANTA QUALIA

**\*FOLLOWING THE LIGHT**

The Acolyte carries the light as we go out, to remind us that we both follow and carry Christ's Light into the World.

**\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

**\*POSTLUDE** - *Mennetto* from Divertimento in B-flat Major

W.A. Mozart

Join us after worship in the Church Lounge  
for fellowship, coffee, lemonade, and cookies.



## Common Life Week of September 17th 2023

### CONNECT, GROW, SHARE

#### **Adult Faith Formation Study “Wrestling with the Book of Job”**

Begin a new year of Adult Faith Formation opportunities with Rev. Jeff Lehn’s study of Job. The class begins Sunday, September 17 at 8:45 am in the Church Lounge and continues through Sunday, October 8. Participation on Zoom available on request. Using the recent book by Andrew Zack Lewis, *Approaching Job*, as our guide, this class will focus on the content and structure of the book, the meaning of individual passages, and some theological and ethical implications. Please join us!

#### **Book Group Gathering on Wednesday, September 20**

The discussion will focus on Claire Keegan’s novel *Small Things Like These*, shortlisted for the Booker Prize in 2022. Deb Schroeder will facilitate beginning at 7:00 pm in the Church Lounge. Contact Joyce Knauff with questions ([joyce@jckassociates.com](mailto:joyce@jckassociates.com)).

#### **Troop 5 Blood Drive on Sunday, September 24**

Versiti Blood Center of Illinois will conduct the blood drive between 9:00 am and 1:00 pm in the Wallace Moore Fellowship Center. Set a time to donate on that date using the [online sign-up](#). Direct questions about the drive to the church office (847-256-3010 | [office@fpcw.org](mailto:office@fpcw.org)).

#### **Suggest Members of a Forthcoming Technology Committee**

Recommend a member or express your own interest in launching this committee, charged by Session with investigating potential initiatives and implementing newly adopted ones. Contact the church office (847-256-3010 | [office@fpcw.org](mailto:office@fpcw.org)).

#### **Support Our Board of Deacons**

Contribute to the Deacons’ Fund using a green pew envelope or through a designated [online contribution](#). Funds allow Deacons to purchase cards and small gifts for those in their care. Contributions also underwrite training materials and costs associated with maintaining our church's defibrillator.

#### **Join Us on Your Social Channels**

Follow First Pres Wilmette on [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#) . Share our posts with your friends and tell us what you’d like to see on our social channels.

### WELCOME & CONNECTIONS

#### **Serve as a Greeter this Fall**

Welcome members and visitors as they enter the church or during Fellowship Hour. Read a complete description of this welcoming ministry and [sign up](#) online.



**Common Life**  
**Week of September 17th 2023**

## MISSIONS

### **Racial Justice Workshop Series Beginning October 5**

Each Thursday in October between 7:00 pm and 9:00 pm join the Racial Justice Committee to consider white identity, privilege, fragility, and supremacy. Please refer to the Bulletin insert for more information or contact the church office (847-256-3010 | [office@fpcw.org](mailto:office@fpcw.org)).

### **Help Mission Partner New Life Baptist Church Expand its Shelter for Homeless Chicagoans**

Thank you to those who have generously helped equip two new rooms. The purchase of gift cards from the [gift registry](#) will help complete them. Please consider contributing to New Life Baptist Church's expanded efforts to shelter, feed, and provide fellowship to homeless members of their community. Learn more about their ministries by watching Rev. Jeff Lehn's recent [interview](#) of Rev. Robert House. Questions welcome; call or email the church office (847-256-3010 | [office@fpcw.org](mailto:office@fpcw.org)).

### **News from Our Sister Church in Malawi**

Read our recently-received correspondence from Katawa Church and learn more about the food staples purchased with funds sent from our congregation in this week's Bulletin insert.

### TODAY'S FLOWERS

Today's flowers are given to the glory of God  
by Mary and Bill Watt in memory of  
Mary's brother, James Mahoney Hill.

### **Use Our Bulletin Interactively Online**

Follow links and generate email messages by viewing our Sunday Bulletin online. Find it at [fpcw.org/worship-livestream/worship-archive/](http://fpcw.org/worship-livestream/worship-archive/)

# BE *the* BRIDGE

MOVING TOWARD  
RACIAL RECONCILIATION

Back in 2020, the Racial Justice Committee read Dr. Jemar Tisby's [\*The Color of Compromise\*](#). Tisby discusses the ARC (Awareness, Relationships, Commitment) model for racial justice as ways to take action to promote racial reform in the church and world. Ever since, we have been working together to gain knowledge and awareness around a number of topics through *Our Call to Racial Justice* announcements (past topics can be found on [fpcw's Racial Justice page](#)). As we work toward building interracial relationships, white people need to do the hard internal work of examining whiteness, which will help foster an environment of listening to and learning from people of color.

Starting in October, Vic and Mary Doucette (who launched the [Social Justice Resource Center](#)) will lead us in a curriculum created [Be the Bridge](#) to examine the "basic tenets and history of whiteness" to help us be better participants in the work towards racial reconciliation. Each session of this workshop will focus on one of the Four W's: *White Identity*, *White Privilege*, *White Fragility*, and *White Supremacy*. These topic names alone can bring up many emotions that we hope you'll explore with us in a facilitated group discussion **October 5th, 12th, 19th, and 26th between 7:00 pm and 9:00 pm in the Church Lounge.**

Leading up to October, we will include a brief introduction to one of the 4 W's for you to consider. You can find the first W: [Developing a White Identity](#), on the Racial Justice webpage (under the Mission heading). We hope these following excerpts from the second W: [Acknowledging White Privilege](#) will encourage you to join us in further conversation.

"What are you talking about? I'm not privileged! I never had anything handed to me! My family was poor, and we worked hard for everything we owned. My life has never been easy!"

"As we move through life,...parts of our identity give us an *advantage*, where other parts of our identity leave us at a *disadvantage*."

"It is easier for us to recognize those aspects of our identity that are oppressed than it is to recognize aspects that are privileged."

It can be hard for white people to realize the benefits afforded to them in American society. Scholar Peggy McIntosh gives many in her essay "[Unpacking the Invisible Knapsack](#)."

## 2023-2024 ADULT GROUPS AT FIRST PRES WILMETTE

Our adult group ministry strives to encourage all members to be a part of this wonderful way to grow in faith. We'd love to see you at one of our small group gatherings!

### STUDY, BOOK, AND DISCUSSION GROUPS

**Adult Faith Formation** – Sundays, 8:45-9:45 am, Church Lounge, Led by Rev. Jeff Lehn

Join any Sunday for lively discussion on the current study series. Contact Jeff Lehn [jlehn@fpcw.org](mailto:jlehn@fpcw.org).

**Bible Study** – Thursdays, 10:00-11:00 am, Church Lounge, Led by Rev. Jeff Lehn

We study scripture and consider how it informs our lives. Contact Bonnie Wehrenberg [bwherbie007@att.net](mailto:bwherbie007@att.net).

**Book Group** – 3rd Wednesday (September 20), 7:00 pm, Church Lounge

Members take turns leading the book discussion. Contact Joyce Knauff ([joyce@jckassociates.com](mailto:joyce@jckassociates.com)).

### FELLOWSHIP AND MEAL GROUPS

**Lunch Hour Loop Group** – 1st Wednesday, Noon, Zoom, Hosted by Rev. Jeff Lehn – on hiatus

The “Loop Group” meets for fellowship, connection and prayer. We know many of us are stressed at work and could use a small group to be supported and encouraged by. You can work from anywhere to join this group—and you are always free to eat your lunch while we meet! Contact Jeff Lehn [jlehn@fpcw.org](mailto:jlehn@fpcw.org).

**Parents of High School Youth (POHSY)**

Parents meet several times a year in a member's home or at the church. Raising teenagers is always a challenge, and as our youth gather together to navigate their lives as Christians, their parents join together to lend support to one another. Contact Iris Boaz [iboaz@ameritech.net](mailto:iboaz@ameritech.net).

**Senior Supper Club** – 3rd Tuesday (September 19), 5:30 pm, Ridgeview Grill in Wilmette

If you are over 65 and want to get to know others more casually, please join us! Contact Bonnie Wehrenberg [bwherbie007@att.net](mailto:bwherbie007@att.net).

### WOMEN'S GROUPS

**Lunch Group for Women** – 2nd Wednesday (October 11), 11:30 am, Church Lounge

Each month a member leads the discussion. Contact Nancy Freeman [njwfreeman@gmail.com](mailto:njwfreeman@gmail.com).

**Westminster Place “Spoke”** – 4th Wednesday (September 27), 10:00-11:00 am, Westminster Place

The group meets in a member's home at Westminster Place and follows a provided study guide with discussion facilitated by Rev. Kara Smith-Laubenstein. Participation also possible through phone conferencing. Contact Anne Menard [amenard4347@yahoo.com](mailto:amenard4347@yahoo.com).

### MEN'S GROUPS

**Men's Hour** – Thursdays, 7:00 pm, Church Lounge

Participants share a brief group reading, silent five-minute meditation, and an opportunity to share thoughts and experiences in turn. No homework or reservations required, and drop-ins are always welcome! Contact Paul Traynor [paultraynor@haymoon.com](mailto:paultraynor@haymoon.com).

**Men's Council** – Saturdays, 8:00-9:30 am, Wallace Moore Fellowship Center and Church Lounge

Meets October through mid-May. Participants gather for breakfast and then listen to an interesting program. All are welcome any Saturday. Contact Steve Polkoff [odyssey1516@gmail.com](mailto:odyssey1516@gmail.com).



## Calendar for the Week of September 17, 2023

### Sunday, September 17th

8:30 am	5th-8th Grade Fellowship	Yellow Room
8:45 am	Adult Faith Formation	Church Lounge/Zoom
9:45 am	Nursery Care for Ages 0-3	Nursery
9:55 am	Livestream Worship	YouTube
10:00 am	In-person Worship	Sanctuary
10:15 am	Children's Chapel	Chapel
11:00 am	Fellowship Hour	Church Lounge
2:00 pm	C24/7 Junior Board Meeting	Upper Room
5:00 pm	'Tower Has Left the Building' Special Event	Offsite

### Monday, September 18th

7:00 pm	Session Meeting	Upper Room
7:00 pm	Troop 5 Meeting	WMFC
7:00 pm	Troop 5 Parent Meeting	Red Room
7:30 pm	Troop 5 Board of Review Meeting	Purple Room
7:30 pm	Crew 5 Meeting	Yellow Room

### Tuesday, September 19th

10:00 am	Staff Meeting	Church Lounge
5:30 pm	Senior Supper	Ridgeview Grill in Wilmette
6:30 pm	Pack 5 Meeting	WMFC

### Wednesday, September 20th

5:00 pm	Midweek Meetup	WMFC
6:00 pm	Church Family Dinner	WMFC
7:00 pm	Book Group Meeting	Church Lounge
7:30 pm	Chancel Choir Rehearsal	Music Room

### Thursday, September 21st

10:00 am	Bible Study	Church Lounge/Zoom
7:00 pm	Men's Hour	Church Lounge
7:45 pm	Chancel Bells Rehearsal	Music Room

### Friday, September 22nd

No scheduled events

### Saturday, September 23rd

No scheduled events

### Sunday, September 24th

8:30 am	5th-8th Grade Fellowship	Yellow Room
8:45 am	Adult Faith Formation	Church Lounge
9:00 am	Troop 5 Blood Drive	WMFC
9:45 am	Nursery Care for Ages 0-3	Nursery
9:55 am	Livestream Worship	YouTube
10:00 am	In-person Worship	Sanctuary
10:15 am	Children's Chapel	Chapel
11:00 am	Fellowship Hour	Church Lounge
5:00 pm	Tower Senior High Fellowship	Tower
6:30 pm	Tower Senior High Dinner	WMFC

WMFC = Wallace Moore Fellowship Center



## INCLUSIVITY STATEMENT

Gathered by the grace of Jesus Christ, we are a vibrant and supportive Christian family whose welcoming spirit reflects God's love for all people. We invite participation in all aspects of our church life by persons of every race, language, national origin, age, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, physical or mental ability, economic or marital status, or faith background.

### CHURCH OFFICE

847-256-3010  
Monday-Thursday 9:00am-5:00pm  
Friday 9:00am-3:30pm

### CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Jeff Lehn  
*Senior Pastor*  
[jlehn@fpcw.org](mailto:jlehn@fpcw.org) ext. 101

Rev. Kara Smith-Laubenstein  
*Associate Pastor*  
[ksmithlaubenstein@fpcw.org](mailto:ksmithlaubenstein@fpcw.org) ext. 102

Rev. Dr. Lolly Dominski  
*Parish Associate for Congregational Care*  
[ldominski@fpcw.org](mailto:ldominski@fpcw.org) ext. 108

Peggy Massello  
*Director of Worship & Music*  
[pmassello@fpcw.org](mailto:pmassello@fpcw.org) ext. 103

Lindley Traynor  
*Director of Children & Family Ministry*  
[ltraynor@fpcw.org](mailto:ltraynor@fpcw.org) ext. 104

Marvin Behm  
*Financial Manager*  
[finmanager@fpcw.org](mailto:finmanager@fpcw.org) ext. 107

Jane Currie  
*Office & Communications*  
[office@fpcw.org](mailto:office@fpcw.org) ext. 106

Ethan Holtermann  
*Livestream Engineer*  
[ethanholtermann1@gmail.com](mailto:ethanholtermann1@gmail.com)

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF WILMETTE

600 Ninth Street, Wilmette, Illinois 60091

847-256-3010

[office@fpcw.org](mailto:office@fpcw.org) [www.fpcw.org](http://www.fpcw.org)